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Air Force Makes 30 Awards For Cost Reduction Efforts

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Air Force Cost Reduction Program awards were presented Oct. 17 to 14 individuals and 16 commands for significant contributions in exceeding the fiscal 1967 cost reduction goal of $332 million by $132 million.

Presented by Leonard Marks Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management, and Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, the awards were made during ceremonies at the Air Force Academy.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Systems and Logistics, Lt. Gen. R. G. Ruegg, Manager, Air Force Cost Reduction Program, announced that total savings for fiscal 1967 reached $464 million, a new high for the program.

Fourteen of the 30 awards went to individuals who originated the outstanding cost reduction actions for fiscal 1967. The actions ranged from a tool fabrication at a cost of $1.03, which saved the Air Force $5,200, to a reduction of Minuteman Missile battery storage space which saved $4.4 million.

Among the individual award winners was Donald L. Stonger, Chief of the Production Engineering Branch, Lake City, Mo., Army Ammunition Plant, who became the first person from another service to receive an Air Force Cost Reduction award. Stonger joined with Russell Massey, Inventory Management Specialist, and Harlan Kline, General Engineer, both of Ogden Air Materiel Area, Hill AFB, Utah, in sharing an award for reducing the cost of ammunition used to test 20mm automatic weapons by $260,000.

Navy Selects 3 Firms to Study Sea-Based ABM Intercept System

Navy has selected three civilian firms to make an advanced study of a sea-based antiballistic missile intercept system (SABMIS).

The study, focusing on using a surface ship as a platform for the system, will be made by Hughes Aircraft Company, Lockheed Missile Space Company and Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company.

Navy officials estimate the study will take about six months and will cost $616,000.

Advantages of a sea-based intercept system, Navy officials feel, is that it could be used to defend overseas bases or protect friendly nations from nuclear blackmail or actual attacks.

SILVER STAR—Lt. Col. Fred A. Haeffner (right), receives congratulations from Gen. John D. Ryan, Pacific Air Forces Commander, after being awarded the Silver Star. Col. Haeffner, Commander, 390th Tactical Fighter Sq., Da Nang, RVN, earned the award by engaging North Vietnamese MIGs which had attacked aircraft under his escort. In the battle he destroyed one MIG, assisted in downing a second and scored a "probable" on a third.

Army Develops New Equipment For Use in Swampy Areas

Army has developed new equipment to increase effectiveness in its mission in Vietnam.

The equipment, called the Delta Platform, is intended for use in swampy areas, such as the low-lying Delta region in Vietnam. It is a hexagonal platform surface 22 feet across, made of aluminum tubing covered with a walking area of aluminum chain link fencing. Six 20-foot legs extend from the platform at 15 degree angles.

The platform is used for off-loading troops from helicopters in rice paddies, swamps and shallow waters. With modifications, it can also be used for a weapons platform, command post, troop shelter, first aid station or helicopter landing pad.

To move patrols about after landing in such terrain, Army has also developed a lightweight, four-man fabric boat, which is breath-inflated and weighs less than six pounds. The craft is nine feet long, 38 inches wide and 10 inches high. Deflated it measures 15 by 6 by 10 inches. Made of nylon, it has 10 compartments which can be inflated in five minutes. The multiple compartments give the boat utility even when some sections become punctured. It has a 1,000 pound load capacity.

Washington Memos

SEVENTH NAVY Recruiting Area has been awarded Chief of Naval Personnel Reenlistment Trophy for fiscal 1967. It was second consecutive time unit has won this award. VAdm. B. J. Semmes Jr., Chief of Naval Personnel cited Seventh Navy Recruiting Area, headquartered in Dallas, Tex., for "improved performance," which he said "is indicative of a well rounded recruiting program highlighted by the required emphasis on all facets of the recruiting effort."

LENGTH OF SERVICE time for promotion of Army warrant officers to CWO2 is being reduced. WOs who complete 18 months service during November will be eligible Nov. 1 for promotion to CWO2. By April 1, 1968, eligibility for temporary promotion from CWO to CWO2 will be 12 months active duty service in that rank.

A SELECTION BOARD is scheduled to convene Dec. 13 at Hq, USAF, to select officers for promotion to major general and brigadier in the Air Force Reserve. Eligibility provisions of AFR 45-34 apply.

WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED in mid-October plan for separation centers and state employee employment offices to identify and seek civilian health work for medically trained personnel leaving service. Called "Project Remed," President Johnson said it is second step in his August announcement to help recently-separated veterans make a smooth transition to civilian life.

NAVY OFFICIALS SAY newest Navy jet trainer, T-2B Buckeye, has proved to be excellent trainer for instructing student aviators in spin recovery techniques. One-year evaluation indicated Buckeye has recovery characteristics similar to many other trainers and fleet aircraft.

HUNDREDS OF TYPING hours are expected to be done away with by use of a revolutionary high-speed typing service at Ft. Belvoir, Va. Magnetic tape typewriters will produce error-free copies at a rate of 150 words per minute in putting out lengthy field studies, manuals and specifications.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has announced appointment of Maj. Gen. Kenneth E. Pletcher as Air Force Surgeon General and his nomination for promotion to lieutenant general. Presently Command Surgeon, Strategic Air Command, Gen. Pletcher will succeed Lt. Gen. Richard L. Bohannon, who retires Nov. 30.

RADM. ROBERT W. McNitt assumed office of superintendent of Naval Postgraduate School Oct. 23, relieving Capt. T. A. Melusky, who resumed his regular duties as school's deputy superintendent for administration and logistics. Adm. McNitt reported to new post from command of Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla Four, Norfolk, Va.

COMMISSIONS WERE AWARDED to 882 officers graduating from Class 68-B of the Air Force Officer Training School. Of these, 864 entered active duty. Nine were from Air Force Reserve units and nine were from Air National Guard units and returned to their organizations. Those entering active duty included 108 former airmen who reached OTS through the Airman Education and Commissioning Program. Also, 24 WAF officers graduated in the class.

WITH THE ELIMINATION of District of Columbia Engineer Commissioner position, man holding that assignment, Brig. Gen. Robert E. Mathe, has been assigned to office of Chief of Engineers, Army.

AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT of future logistics systems has been activated by Air Force Logistics Command. First assignment will be development of a new world-wide logistics system to keep track of about 80,000 items valued at $5 billion. Brig. Gen. Frederick E. Morris Jr., will head the system.

SECRETARY OF NAVY Award for Achievement in Safety has gone to Naval Supply Systems Command for safety record of the Command and its field activities in 1966.

FIRST AIR FORCE Systems and Logistics Service Award has been presented to 60th Military Airlift Wing, Travis AFB, Calif. Presentation was made by Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Cunningham, Commander, 22nd Air Force, to Brig. Gen. Maurice F. Casey, 60th Wing Commander. Wing was cited for "providing significant logistic support" in Air Force mission in Southeast Asia.

NORFOLK, VA., WILL be home port for 64,000-ton aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy when it is commissioned in September 1968. The 1,051 foot long ship will be commanded by Capt. Earl P. Yates.

AIR FORCE SELECTION objectives for the top-two NCO grades during calendar year 1968 are 1,878 to E-9 and 5,089 to E-8. There are 16,280 eligible for E-8 and 7,027 competing for E-9. The selection ratio for E-8 is 1 to 3.2 and E-9 is 1 to 3.7. The promotions are on a monthly basis.

NAVY-OWNED FACILITIES AT Bethlehem Steel Company's shipyard in San Francisco have been sold for more than $3 million.

MORE THAN 300 military and civilian representatives attended three-day world-wide Maintenance Engineering symposium on aircraft gas turbine engines in San Antonio, Oct. 24-26. Conference was hosted by Air Force Logistics Command, supported by personnel of San Antonio Air Materiel Command's Materiel Management Directorate.

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Air Force Changes Titles Of E-2, 3, 4 Enlisted Grades

The grade title of some 167,000 Air Force E-4s has been changed to "Sergeant" instead of Airman First Class. They had been called Airmen First Class since 1952 when the grade title structure was established.

Concurrent with the immediate change, the title for grade E-3 has been changed from Airman Second Class to Airman First Class and the title for E-2 is changed from Airman Third Class to Airman.

Explaining the other title changes, officials noted the "retitling is prescribed because we believe the terms second Class and Third Class are undesirable in association with any Air Force member."

In a message to major commands, Lt. Gen. Horace M. Wade, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, stated that each sergeant (E-4), along with NCOs in higher grades, will be expected to demonstrate the leadership qualities and capabilities to influence other airmen.

The message continued, "Commanders will vest the authority necessary in the new NCO designees to exercise such leadership, and they will be given advantages and privileges commensurate with their responsibilities."

Restoration of NCO status to the E-4 "establishes equity with the other Services." NCO ranks start at grade E-4 in the Army and Marine Corps. Petty Officer grades start at E-4 in the Navy.

Fuel Tank Explosion Suppression System Developed by Air Force

A polyurethane foam used to retard fire spread in racing cars will soon be installed in fuel tanks of combat aircraft in the Republic of Vietnam.

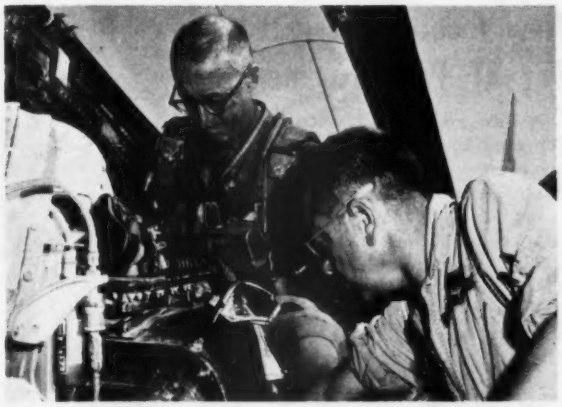
Air Force Systems Command engineers have conducted a two-year test and development program of the new material which will greatly reduce fire and explosion hazards in U.S. Air Force aircraft and add to the safety of combat air crews.

The foam is composed of open cells which permits the free flow of fuel through it without danger of absorption and nearly eliminates the possibility of explosion in case of a direct hit on the tank by tracer bullets or other incendiaries.

Ruptured tanks will be prevented from spewing and spilling fuel spray by the polyurethane foam and external flame fronts will not be able to creep back into the fuel tanks.

In-flight fuel slosh in the tanks is also suppressed.

General James Ferguson, Systems Command head, stated, "the advantages of the new material are almost unlimited. It should help reduce aircraft combat losses and save lives."



STRAPPING IN—Army Brig. Gen. Leo H. Schweiter, Commander, 173rd Airborne Brigade, straps into the back seat of an Air Force F-100 Supersabre prior to flying a combat mission with the 308th Tactical Fighter Sq., Tuy Hoa AB, RVN. Assisting the general is his pilot, Air Force Maj. Vance T. Leuthold.

Retirement, Resignations Deferred For 550 Regular Navy Officers

Voluntary retirements and resignations of some regular Navy officers will be deferred under a revised policy announced by Navy Department.

Those affected will be officers with rank of commander and below who have more than four years experience and can fill billets at sea or in Vietnam.

However, Navy officials indicate the majority of officers extended will be unrestricted line and supply corps lieutenants.

Navy officials anticipate postponing retirements or resignations of 550 officers during the period from January through June 1968. The extensions will not exceed 12 months.

Not subject to the deferral policy are officers in such groups as: Medical, Dental, Nurse and Medical Service Corps, limited duty and warrant officers, officers with personal or family hardships, officers statutorily retired, those with skills or qualifications not in demand, officers with separation dates already set by the Secretary of the Navy and officers with previous 12-month extensions.

In similar action, Marine Corps officials have announced about 60 regular Marine Corps officers will be retained from January through June 1968, until the same period the following year. Marine Corps officers affected are those in: aviation, including naval aviators and naval flight officers; motor transport, motor transport maintenance, engineering and ordnance.

New Emblem Designed For AF Pararescuemen

A new emblem has been designed for wear by the small force of pararescuemen in the Air Force's Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service.

The new badge incorporates the Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service's "Guardian Angel" emblem, with the world in her grasp, and the motto "That Others May Live." Portraying the pararescuemen's role in the ARRS mission are shroud lines affixed atop the insignia.

Designed by Capt. Peter A. Rundquist, ARRS Standardization Section, Orlando AFB, Fla., the badge will replace the "jump wings" worn by the more than 270 pararescuemen on their maroon berets.

Army Schedules 2 Courses For Artillery Officers

Two artillery officer advanced courses are to begin after July 1, 1968, the Army announced.

This change will permit an artillery officer to attend one of two courses affording increased academic instruction.

An air defense course will be offered at the Air Defense School at Ft. Bliss, Tex., and a field artillery officer course at the Artillery and Missile School, Ft. Sill, Okla. Each course will be an academic year.

Late Gen. Crumm Named Winner Of AF Zuckert Management Award

The late Maj. Gen. William J. Crumm, former commander of the Strategic Air Command's Third Air Division, has been posthumously awarded the Eugene M. Zuckert Management Award for 1967.

The general's widow, who accepted the award, asked that SAC retain the award. Gen. Joseph J. Nazzaro, SAC commander-in-chief, was present at the ceremony to accept custodianship.

Selection of Gen. Crumm was based on his "demonstrated outstanding management of vital resources while implementing national policy."

FIRST VISIT—Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius (left), receives military honors during a visit to the Atlantic Command headquarters in Norfolk, Va. Also present are RAdm. Ben B. Pickett (center), Deputy Chief of Staff, Atlantic Command, and Adm. Ephraim P. Holmes, Commander in Chief, Atlantic Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet. This was Mr. Ignatius' first visit to Norfolk as Secretary.

'Project Palace Dome' To Screen AF Navigators

Air Force navigators in non-rated duties are being screened for return to rated duty under a new program called "Project Palace Dome."

The program starts Nov. 1. However, the first monthly quota of duty changes is scheduled for January 1968. The project is expected to be completed with the August 1968 quotas, barring unforeseen circumstances.

Personnel officials pointed out that worldwide navigator manning has declined in the last 14 months from 100 percent to 90 percent, and further decreases in manning levels are anticipated.

Palace Dome will be accomplished by levies on commands for behind-the-line navigators being assigned largely to Southeast Asia commitments and by commands reassigning behind-the-line navigators intra-command to rated duties.

"Behind-the-line" normally refers to an officer filling a non-rated duty assignment.

Army 1st Lt. James Gardner Wins Posthumous Award Of Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor has been posthumously awarded to 1st Lt. James A. Gardner, Dyersburg, Tenn. Secretary of the Army Stanley R. Resor presented the award to the lieutenant's widow who has since remarried, Mrs. Joella Gardner Rosler of Clarksville, Tenn.

In ceremonies at the secretary's office, he said the award recognizes the officer's "heroic action at My Canh village, Vietnam on Feb. 7, 1966, when he personally destroyed five enemy bunkers even after being gravely wounded himself."

At the time of his action, Lt. Gardner was a platoon leader in the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division.

AF Medicine School Tests Portable Isolation Unit

A portable isolation unit is being evaluated at the School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Tex., and will soon be tested aboard Military Airlift Command C-141 Starlifter aeromedical evacuation flights.

The unit, with a control system to regulate temperature and humidity, is designed to protect other patients from a patient with a contagious disease.

Present methods of transporting patients requiring isolation necessitates use of a face mask which needs frequent changing.

JCS Chairmen Honored

Five former chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be honored in New York Dec. 11 by the Freedoms Foundation and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. This will mark the first combined public tribute to the JCS chairmen since the Department of Defense was established by President Truman in 1947.

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